



## YOUTH COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BUREAU STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Procedure No.: YCC 60-28	Subject: <b>SECURITY THREAT GROUP AND STREET GANG IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
Chapter 60: CASE MANAGEMENT / SUPERVISION STANDARDS	Page 1 of 4	
Applicable ACA Standards:	Revision Date:	
Signature: /s/ Karen Duncan	Effective Date: 03-28-12	

### I. BUREAU DIRECTIVE:

It is the policy of the Youth Community Corrections (YCC) bureau to establish a uniform process for the identification and management of members of security threat groups in YCC operated facilities/programs. YCC will cooperate with and provide information to secure youth facilities and appropriate law enforcement agencies regarding STG and street gang related information. This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

### II. DEFINITIONS:

**Defection** - a written and signed denouncement of gang involvement.

**DOC Intelligence Coordinator** - the individual assigned by the Director, or designee, to be responsible for coordinating security threat group intelligence information on behalf of the entire Department.

**Facility/Program Intelligence Coordinators** - the individuals assigned by the Department Director, or designee, at each facility/program to provide security threat group intelligence information to the Department's Investigation Unit and/or other offices designated by the Department.

**Security Threat Group (STG)** - a group of two or more individuals with a common interest, bond, or activity typically characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct. This term will be used interchangeably with the term "gang".

**Validation** - process through which a member/associate/suspect of a security threat group is officially recognized through use of the STG validation worksheet.

### III. PROCEDURE:

#### A. **Information**

1. The Department will maintain and compile information on major gangs throughout the United States, with emphasis on Montana and its surrounding area, which will be utilized in the following manner:

Procedure No.: YCC 60-28	Chapter 60: CASE MANAGEMENT / SUPERVISION STANDARDS	Page 2 of 4
Subject: <b>SECURITY THREAT GROUP AND STREET GANG IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>		

- a. to identify and validate security threat groups and their members/associates/suspects;
  - b. to assist with the proper placement and management of identified youth under the jurisdiction of the Department;
  - c. for the maintenance of Department records;
  - d. to provide an awareness of the extent of problems that may exist in Department facilities/programs relative to security threat groups; and/or
  - e. to assist other criminal justice and law enforcement agencies when the sharing of pertinent information may be helpful.
2. A list of known and/or suspected activities and identified security threat group members will be maintained by the regional Juvenile Parole Officer II (JPO II).
3. This information will be confidential criminal justice information. It is imperative that STG information be kept in secure, locked files. In every case, storage must be in an area that is strictly prohibited from access by any youth.
4. Information regarding youth involvement with STG will be released pursuant to [Title 41, ch. 5, Youth Court Act, MCA](#).

## **B. Identification**

1. Any staff member who has reason to believe that a youth is a member of, or affiliated with, a security threat group will report this information to the regional JPO II who will validate the information to ensure that it is reliable. The following factors should be considered when making a preliminary or revised determination of a youth's involvement as a member of a security threat group:
  - a. self admission;
  - b. tattoos and/or other identification marks;
  - c. possession of disruptive group literature, correspondence, and/or paraphernalia;
  - d. prior identification by law enforcement/criminal justice agencies;
  - e. association with other disruptive gang members;
  - f. identification by another youth;
  - g. common identifying signs or symbols; and/or
  - h. other relevant information.
2. The regional JPO II will complete the Security Threat Group Validation Worksheet [YCC 60-28 (A)] (**Restricted Distribution**) by entering the information established in section B above. After determining the youth's level of

Procedure No.: YCC 60-28	Chapter 60: CASE MANAGEMENT / SUPERVISION STANDARDS	Page 3 of 4
Subject: <b>SECURITY THREAT GROUP AND STREET GANG IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>		

involvement, the regional JPO II will enter the information into the region's intelligence files and share the same with facility.

**C. Management of Youth Security Threat Group Members**

1. Engaging in recruitment or participating in security threat-related activities may serve as the basis for intervention and/or classification action.
2. The supervising officer will attempt to maintain some separation and/or a balance of suspected threat group members within community programs, as much as is possible, taking into account the availability of alternate resources in the community.
3. The JPOII will determine the level of security threat that a particular group, gang, or organization may pose. This process should encompass formal interview techniques, on-going data collection, observations of staff, and evaluation of STG activity based on the criteria established by the Department's intelligence coordinators.
4. Any display of security threat group colors, symbols, signs or insignias, and/or recruitment efforts is prohibited and may result in intervention.
5. When a supervising parole officer receives notice of a validated STG member being released, the parole officer will notify the appropriate local law enforcement agencies. When a youth is discharged from the Department without further supervision, and the individual's discharge destination is known, and Pine Hills and/or Riverside contacts the parole officer in that area, the parole officer will inform local law enforcement of any STG status.

**D. Defection**

1. If a youth being supervised by juvenile parole expresses the intent to defect or quit his membership and participation in a STG, he will meet with his assigned parole officer. After discussing the situation with the youth, and if the officer believes the youth to be sincere, the officer will request that the youth complete and sign a defection letter.
2. The JPO II will maintain documentation in a confidential file and include it in STG information to be shared with facilities if a youth returns as a parole violator or to be shared with parole officers if the youth moves to another region.
3. Youth defecting from an STG will:

Procedure No.: YCC 60-28	Chapter 60: CASE MANAGEMENT / SUPERVISION STANDARDS	Page 4 of 4
Subject: <b>SECURITY THREAT GROUP AND STREET GANG IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>		

- a. be counseled by his assigned parole officer regarding issues about his decision (i.e. feelings of abandonment, how to avoid risk situations; conflicting emotions, etc.);
- b. be placed in a different placement if necessary and alternate placement is available; and/or
- c. be monitored for possible retaliation and/or evidence of risk situations developing.

#### IV. CLOSING:

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the youth community corrections bureau chief.

#### V. REFERENCES:

<a href="#"><u>44-5-303, MCA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dissemination of Confidential Criminal Justice Information</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>46-18-101, MCA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Correctional and Sentencing Policy</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>53-1-203, MCA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Powers and Duties of the Department of Corrections</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>DOC 3.1.24</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Security Threat Group and Street Gang Identification and Management</u></a>

#### VI. ATTACHMENTS:

YCC 60-28 (A) STG Validation Worksheet (**Restricted Distribution**)